

Memorandum

City of Tempe



Date: September 9, 2003

To: Mayor and Council

From: Diana Kaminski

Cc: Planning & Zoning Commissioners,
Department Heads, General Plan Advisory Team,
Board and Commission Chairpersons

Subject: Executive Summary for General Plan 2030

BACKGROUND:

The state requires that cities prepare a comprehensive, long-range general plan for future development of the municipality. This plan consists of a statement of community goals, objectives and strategies. The document must also contain specified elements addressing a variety of land use planning issues, and relevant statistics and maps. Tempe has had a General Plan since 1967, updating it every ten years (as required by state law) or more often as necessary.

In 1997, Council adopted General Plan 2020. In 1999 and 2000, changes were made to state law (Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus Legislation) requiring additional elements and more public involvement in planning. Specifically, state law requires new General Plans to be adopted by City Council, and ratified by voters at a subsequent election. Having a relatively new plan, General Plan 2020 was amended in 2001 to comply with the new content requirements. However, significant development since 1997 (including the Town Lake); 2000 census data; MAG information on adjacent communities and ASU's planning direction provided new information warranting a new General Plan. Staff made a commitment to the Governor's Oversight Council that Tempe would develop a new general plan in 2002, for adoption in 2003.

In 2002, Council approved the Public Participation Plan outlining the process used for developing this new plan. A Technical Task Force of employees from different departments was assembled to collect information, draft elements, and review the document for technical feasibility. An Advisory Team of residents, business and non-profit leaders were appointed by Council to draft elements, gather public comments, and advise staff on changes to the document. Members of various Boards and Commissions were also involved in drafting specific elements, reviewing these elements in relation to one another and recommending changes for consistency and readability. (See attached list of acknowledgements for participants).

The first public process was for information gathering, including a consultant conducted phone survey to identify community-wide issues, 17 advertised meetings to discuss proposed elements and gather public information to create a comprehensive community document. The Advisory Team and staff reviewed comments for incorporation into the first draft of the proposed General Plan. The draft was available for public comment for just over four months. Announcement of the draft and invitation to two open houses was mailed to every property address in Tempe. During this time, 17 advertised public meetings were held to introduce the public to the draft and invite them to provide comments on the draft. Additional meetings were held with specific groups upon their request. 400 copies of the plan were distributed to residents, adjacent cities, utility companies, school districts, developers, staff and other members of the public. The document was also made available on line, and at the Tempe and ASU libraries. Approximately 65 individuals or groups provided comments on the draft. Each comment was documented in writing, and

reviewed by the Technical Task Force and Advisory Team. Responses are provided to each comment, (see attached matrix of public comments) explaining how the comment was incorporated into the second draft, or why it was not. The matrix has been forwarded to Council and Planning & Zoning Commission, for consideration with the general plan. Additional comments received during the public hearing process will be forward to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Council for consideration. The draft general plan was developed with extensive public participation, and written for a public election in May 2004.

SCHEDULE:

The schedule for the public hearings includes time for additional hearings at both the Planning & Zoning Commission and Council, if necessary. However, it is a tight schedule due to deadlines for meeting the adoption commitment made to the state, and the ratification requirements of the general election process. If the document requires further hearings past the end of 2003, the document will need to be pushed to a special election in the fall of 2004, which would require additional funding.

Editing will continue through September 11th, at which time it will be sent to the printers for copying. This redlined second draft will be distributed to Council, Planning & Zoning Commissioners, Department Heads and the Advisory Team on Friday September 19th. This draft will have all of the changes shown in a strike-out/underline format, so that differences between the first and second draft will be evident.

Note: a comment received after the initial deadline for public comments suggested reorganizing the document strategies to better reflect the implementation of the objectives. The Advisory Team and staff agreed that this would be a great improvement to the document, however, it would require more time than available for this draft. The Advisory Team recommended that the organizational changes be made during the Planning & Zoning hearing process, and presented to Council in an updated version of the document prior to the Council hearings. These changes would not include any content changes, and would only reflect a new order to the existing strategies within each element, making the final document easier to read and implement.

September 23rd - First Planning & Zoning Hearing
September 25th – Council IRS
October 14th – Second Planning & Zoning Hearing
October 16th – Introduction to Council
October 28th - Optional Third Planning & Zoning Hearing

As noted above, all comments received through the Planning & Zoning Hearing process will be documented in a similar format and forwarded with Commission recommendations to Council.

November 6th – First Council Hearing (or introduction if there is a 3rd P&Z hearing)
November 13th – Second Council Hearing (or 1st, if there's a 3rd P&Z hearing)
December 4th – Optional Third Council Hearing (or second if there's a 3rd P&Z hearing)
December 18th - Deadline for Council Adoption to meet May 2004 election preparation requirements

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF DRAFT:

The following list is not intended to be a complete list of every proposed policy within the proposed new General Plan 2030. It is a list of what has been identified as potentially significant from the existing General Plan. The document as a whole has been reorganized into chapters containing groups of elements. Maps are included within each element, rather than located at the back, making it easy to reference information from the maps to the text. The final document will have images and tabs, and will have a graphic format that is easy to read.

I. Introduction

The draft general plan includes an introduction, expanded historic timeline, new regional analysis and expanded statistical section. The last two sections address Growing Smarter legislation and potential planning impacts. Included in the statistical section is a summary of several community surveys, including the General Plan survey.

II. General Plan History, Organization & Process

Based on public comment, additional information was provided to explain the differences between planning documents and programs used to implement city policies. Another new section is a summary of the public participation plan. The amendment process has been revised to include changes to the definition of major amendments to the general plan. The criteria of land use changes remains the same, however, specific area plans and significant changes to the comprehensive transportation plan or water master plan have been added as major amendments (which can only be heard once a year by Council).

III. Land Use, Design & Development Chapter

Land Use Element

Substantial changes to the land use definitions to better reflect how land is used to live, work and recreate. These changes include removing density from the land use maps, combining office/service and light industrial into commercial, and identifying city and ASU properties with how the land is actually used rather than just identifying municipal and educational properties. The maps provide more specificity.

Density was separated from the land use maps into separate density maps to designate density on residential, mixed-use and commercial properties. The density designations have changed from 3 categories (in GP 2020) to 6, providing added specificity. The sixth category is a change from the first draft, which adds cultural resource areas as areas with a density designation matching the existing zoning. This addition was made in response to public comment, and affects 31 neighborhoods identified in the 2001 Post WWII Subdivision Study.

The Land Use element has significantly more analysis of regional and existing conditions, including a chart identifying relationships to zoning categories, existing and projected densities, and an explanation of the projected data. Planning tools are defined here to clarify strategies listed, and specific area plan has been generally defined (specific regulatory language is being added to the zoning ordinance). The specificity of this element was in response to Growing Smarter legislation, census data and public input early in the process.

Accessibility Element

This new element is not required by state law, but was identified by the community as important. It addresses accessibility issues for all members of the community, and promotes the concept of universal design, which creates environments usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Community Design Element

This element is also not required by state law, but was identified by the community as important. It has been modified from the GP 2020 Urban Design Element, to address environmental design, sustainable design, historic preservation, accessibility, and other community issues that may vary dependant on location.

Historic Preservation Element

This is a new element that addresses state requirements for conservation. It parallels the Historic Preservation Ordinance, tracks historic development in Tempe, and identifies the cultural resource areas of the Post WWII Subdivision Study.

Housing Element

This element provides more statistical data, analysis, and identification of current programs to address state legislative requirements. It now includes reference to ASU and other community identified issues.

Neighborhoods Element

This new element is not required by state law, but was identified by the community as important. It identifies existing neighborhood and homeowner associations, and calls for public involvement in planning

processes. Planning tools specific to neighborhood planning are defined here for better understanding of how neighborhoods are involved.

Redevelopment Element

This is a new element that addresses the state requirements for redevelopment, and the criteria and definitions associated with this planning tool. It includes a map of redevelopment areas, and strategies for reinvestment, revitalization and infill.

IV. Economics & Growth Chapter

Economic Development Element

This element is not required by state law, but was identified by the community as important. It identifies employment nodes, and generally outlines the policies used to attract and retain businesses.

Cost of Development Element

This element addresses state requirements for development provision of services and infrastructure to serve new or intensified developments.

Growth Areas Element

This element addresses state requirements for identifying areas of special focus, which are planned for multi-modal transportation, infrastructure expansion and improvements, concentration of development and mixed land uses. This element includes a map of seven proposed growth areas in Tempe. Each growth area has its own objectives and strategies.

V. Conservation & Resources Chapter

Environment Element

This element addresses state requirements for air quality and energy resources. It also addresses noise pollution and ambient air temperatures, two issues identified by the public.

Land Element

This element addresses state requirements for environmental conservation and remediation and solid waste policies.

Water Element

This element addresses state requirements for water, wastewater and stormwater policies. It includes maps of general locations of existing and planned water facilities, and community stormwater retention areas. This element is based on the Comprehensive Water Master Plan.

VI. Transportation Chapter

Pedestrian Network Element

This new element addresses state requirements identifying sidewalks and multi-modal paths. It is based on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Bikeways Element

This new element addresses state requirements for identifying bike facilities and circulation. It is also based on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Transit Element

This new element addresses state requirements for identifying transit facilities and circulation. It is also based on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Travelways Element

This new element addresses state requirements for identifying streets, railways and freeways. It is based on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Motorists Element

This new element addresses community interests in the needs of motorists. It is based on excerpts from different areas of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Parking & Access Management

This new element is based on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Aviation

This new element addresses a mode of transportation important to the community, which is also important to our economy and land use planning. This element also refers to the noise element to address environmental issues related to this mode of transportation.

VII. Open Space, Recreation & Cultural Amenities Chapter

Open Space Element

Open space and recreation are one element in the GP 2020. They have been separated to better address state legislation, and clearly define open spaces, from recreational facilities which may not have significant open space associated with the land use. This element identifies existing land use and provides analysis of the resources and strategies for preserving and improving this valuable community resource in a land locked community. This element is based on the Parks and Recreation Masterplan.

Recreation Element

This element identifies recreation facilities, defines the hierarchy of the park system, projects potential need for new facilities, and outlines strategies for operations, enhancement, maintenance, and access of recreational resources. This element is also based on the Parks and Recreation Masterplan.

Public Art & Cultural Amenities Element

This element is not required by state law, but was identified by the community as important. It has maps identifying cultural amenities and public art. This element is based on the Public Art Strategic Plan.

VII. Public Facilities & Services Chapter

Public Buildings Element

This element addresses state requirements identifying existing and planned public facilities, it includes a map of Tempe facilities, as well as public schools. It includes strategies for energy efficiency, cost conservation, safety, accessibility, historic preservation, and long term sustainability.

Public Services Element

This element addresses state requirements identifying services provided by the city, or other agencies, and strategies for service provision and program implementation.

Human Services Element

This element is not required by state law, but was identified by the community as important. It draws attention to strategies specific to human services, and is based on the People Improvement Plan.

Public Safety Element

This element addresses state requirements for emergency response, fire and police safety, location of existing and planned facilities, and strategies to implement long range objectives. It is divided into three sections, emergency management, fire and police, with information based on existing operational plans from respective departments.

IX Appendix

This section has been reorganized from the current General Plan. It includes a glossary, list of sources cited (new), a copy of the Ahwahnee Principles (new), a copy of the Charter of the Congress of New Urbanism (new), and acknowledgements.